GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2769
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2007
BAN ON DICLOFENAC DRUG
Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to phase out and eventual ban of the veterinary use of Diclofenac drug;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has requested States Drug Controllers to phase out use of said drug in veterinary practice;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the name of the alternate safer and effective drug permitted to be used for treatment of animals in veterinary health care?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN)

(a)to(d): The issue of phasing out of Diclofenac for veterinary use was under consideration with the Government as serious concern has been expressed at different fora over the decline in the population of vultures in Indian sub-continent due to scavenging of the dead carcasses of the animals treated with Diclofenac. The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries in January 2006 has issued advice to State Animal Husbandry/Veterinary Department not to procure Diclofenac drugs for its central drug stores. The Drug Controller General of India vide letter No.18-03/2006-DC dated 11th May, 2006 also issued instructions to all the state Drugs Controller to withdraw the manufacturing licenses granted to manufacture of veterinary formulations of diclofenac and phasing out of the marketing of such formulations within three months.

(e): Alternate drugs like Meloxicam is permitted to be used for treatment of animals in veterinary health care.